Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank 427 Chestnut Street Philadelphia Philadelphia County Pennsylvania

22744

51-7HILA,

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Form: 10-920 (June 1983)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2574H AT AJH9-17 2578

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
STATE	COUNTY		TOWN OR VI	CINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA		PHILADELPHIA	
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) HABS NO.				
FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' BANK				PA-1415
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE				<u> </u>
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)				
427 Chestnut Street DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)				
John M. Gries, archi			rchitect; 3	John Rice, builder;
1854-55 Wm. Struthers, marble mason; Robt. Wood, iron v SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)				
The Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, at that time the largest in the city, erected the first of				
the bank row structures in 1854. The building has recently been the home of the Philadelphia				
Maritime Museum (1965-1974). Philadelphia National Bank bought the building in 1917 and still owns it.				
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)				
Italianate style MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)				
ront facade is of marble. The rest of the building (excluding addition) is of brick. SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)				
Approx. 55' (five-bay front) X 45' EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE				
Arched windows. Two ground floor window arches have lion heads. All second floor window hood				
liave ram neads. Pliasters at ground floor. "Heavy" cornice in typical Italianate faction and				
panel on the center of the parapet shows an anvil and a plow, which are representative symbols of the farmer and mechanic (con't. on page 2)				
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Originally there was a central corridor with flanking offices and a rear three-story bank-				
ing room with a skylight.				
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES				
Interior altered 1873. Turn-of-the century alterations: lavatory addition, partitions, open-				
ings, and basement enlargement.				
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE				
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATION	rF	<u> </u>		
See page 3 for an early view of the building. For further architectural description, the				
Philadelphia Historical Commission, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa., has 1855 insurance				
survey for this building. The Society also has <u>Baxter's Business Directory</u> (con't. on p. 2)				
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Some of this information is based on Richard Webster's Philadelphia Preserved, published in				
1976 by Temple University Press.				
COMPILER, AFFILIATION			ļ	DATE
Susan McCown, arch. historian,	, Historic Ame	rican Bldg. Surve	y	Feb. 23, 1984

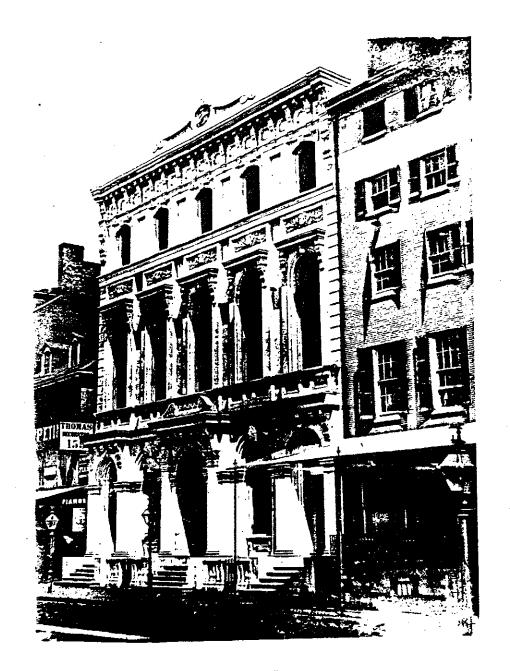
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page one):

The iron door is original and had a lion head knocker.

OTHER INFORMATION (continued from page one):

which shows the Bank Row (the building is included in this view).

19th century photograph of the building



Courtesy of City Hall, Philadelphia, Pa. Photo No. 25, Vol. 7, Philadelphia Miscellaneous Views. Photographic Unit, City Hall.